

**Director-General Speaking Points**  
**Plenary Session “The CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda for the  
Promotion and Continuity of the Region”**

University of Latvia, Raina Blvd. 19  
on 19 October 2017, in Riga

*Your Magnificence, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my honour to address such a distinguished audience and a pleasure to discuss the science and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, since the Council of the Baltic Sea States has a long-standing role in this field. Namely, out of 25 years of its work 10 have been dedicated to a search for the optimum transnational measures which would best serve the specific needs of the Baltic Sea Region.

In brief terms, the CBSS 2007-2008 Latvian Presidency marked the beginning of a nuanced dialogue on science and research cooperation. The CBSS 2007 Latvian Chair’s Conclusions endorsed by the CBSS High Level Meeting of Education and Science is the pivotal document recommending establishment of two ad-hoc Expert Groups.

Besides this brief note on the contribution of the previous Latvian CBSS Presidency to the evolution of governance structures reflecting on science and research cooperation, today I would like to also elaborate on a wider context of the CBSS supported collaboration initiatives.

Over the last five months the CBSS has witnessed an insightful high-level discussion in which the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda has played a decisive role. First of all, the Declaration on the Occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council of the Baltic Sea States stresses the role of science and research cooperation in building a track record of sustainable results benefiting the whole Baltic Sea Region. This vision has been further translated in the **CBSS Baltic 2030 Action Plan**, where research has an especially prominent role in supporting the priority focus areas “**Transition to a Sustainable Economy**” and “**Quality Education & Lifelong Learning**”. The first steps in putting the priority focus area “Transition to a Sustainable Economy” in action are taken by **Baltic TRAM**. While “Quality Education & Lifelong Learning” is enabled by **Baltic Science Network**.

For those of you who are not engaged in the day-to-day work of the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda and its two cornerstones, I should would like to point out that **Baltic TRAM** project offers companies free access to state-of-the-art analytical research facilities across the Baltic Sea Region, providing technical and scientific expertise to help solve challenges associated with developing new products or services.

Whereas **Baltic Science Network** provides science and research ministries in the whole Baltic Sea Region with a comprehensive coordination framework to develop and implement researcher mobility support measures in a macro-regional dimension.

The spirit and vision crafted during the high-level meeting in Reykjavik this June was brought to Hamburg and presented during the **26<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference**. The parliamentarians praised the work supported by the CBSS and the importance of the **Baltic Science Network** and the **Baltic TRAM** projects in shaping the future solutions for enhanced macro-regional cooperation in the research domain.

Once touching upon these specific two initiatives, I would like to thank His Magnificence, Rector Indriķis Muižnieks and the President of the BSRUN Kari Hyppönen for their support. It is my great pleasure to discuss the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda during a forum organised and hosted by its avid supporters. Here I am making a specific remark to the engagement of the BSRUN in Baltic Science Network and the involvement of the University of Latvia in the Baltic TRAM project. Your contribution in crafting the future solutions of research cooperation across the Baltic Sea Region is much appreciated.

It was also demonstrated by your active engagement in the first CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day held in St Petersburg. The CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day was recognized as an important event which assembled various key stakeholders of the transnational science, research and innovation domains. Therefore, the CBSS Secretariat has launched this conference as an annual event. Namely, the second CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day will be taking place in Turku on 24 – 26 January 2018. It will be a splendid opportunity to enrich the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Åbo Akademi University and the 5<sup>th</sup> Baltic University Programme Rectors' Conference with reflections on the future of research and innovation cooperation. Moreover, let me also thank the University of Latvia for its readiness to host the third CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day in the beginning of February 2019 in Riga, on the occasion of its 100 years' anniversary.

I am sure that these events will also offer an occasion for the stakeholders of the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda, and the BSRUN in particular, to discuss the creation of a special programme for research mobility, designed for young scientists. Such a programme will serve as one of the targeted and complementary components for supporting research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Once coming back to the already implemented cornerstones of the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda, I should note that the dynamic work of Baltic Science Network is greatly benefiting from the support rendered by the Baltic University Programme. Thus, I am sure that the cooperation experience presented today by Prof. Lars Rydén will also be of relevance to the second phase of Baltic Science Network implementation.

Moreover, further advancement of the Baltic Science Network would not be possible without the engagement of the University of Turku. Thus, I am pleased that today's discussions will be enriched by fresh perspectives on mobility programmes offered by several experienced Baltic Science Network members.

Over the last months both Baltic Science Network and Baltic TRAM have presented thought-provoking publications which I would suggest as a reading for every expert in the research and science domains who shares our goals of joint advancement of innovation potential in the whole Baltic Sea Region. I see a lot of room for further multilateral efforts in supporting the CBSS long-term priority *Sustainable and Prosperous Region* through such commonly shared smart specialisation areas as **health sector** with focus on bio technologies, **digital growth** through focus on ICT and **sustainable energy**.

Let me conclude my reflections on the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda by informing you about the latest developments of its programs during the upcoming weeks.

Namely, an analysis of smart specialisation and innovation governance across the Baltic Sea Region, crafted by the Baltic TRAM will be presented during the its **Mid-Term Conference “Analytical Research for Industry – Novel Options for Enhanced Cooperation”**, taking place under the auspices of the CBSS Swedish Presidency and hosted by the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm on 25 – 26 October. Whereas, the **Baltic Science Network transnational seminar “New Tools for Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation in Research and Innovation Programmes”** will be taking place on 16 November 2017 in Tallinn, in the framework of the Estonian EU Presidency.

You are most welcome to join these thought provoking debates on science – business cooperation and innovative approaches to the macro-regional researcher mobility. The key conclusions of these events will support the overall advancement of the European Research Area.

Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to the presentations of my fellow panellists.